श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री का धन्यवाद कि उन्होंने स्पष्टीकरण दिया लेकिन यह स्पष्टीकरण अधूरा है। जो खुली सीमाएं हैं इनकी वजह है हम कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं लगा सकते हैं। लेकिन खुली सीमाए देश के अन्य पड़ोसी देशों के साथ भी हैं तो उन पर नियंत्रण करने के लिये उन्होंने कोई तंत्र बनाया है। अत: प्रश्न था कि क्या ऐसा कोई तंत्र बनाया जा सकता है जिससे नेपाल के लोग भारत में आते है तो उनके बारे में सही जानकारी एकत्रित की जा सके?

एक बात और है प्रधान मंत्री जी कि नेपाल के जो लोग भारत में आकर बस गये है और एक प्रकार से उन्होंने नागरिकता तक प्राप्त कर ली है और यह स्थिति ऐसी बन गई है कि जब चुनाव होते हैं तो उस अवसर पर उनकी एक विशेष भूमिका बन जाती है जबकि भारत के जो लोग नेपाल में रहते हैं उनके साथ वह स्थिति नहीं बन पा रही है। इन स्थितियों पर ध्यान रखते हुये क्या आप ऐसा तंत्र बनाने की सोचेंगे कि जितने नेपाली भारत में रह रहे है उनके बारे में वास्तविक जानकारी हमको मिल सके ? दूसरी बात और है जो भारतीय नेपाल में जाते हैं उन्हें वे समस्त सुविधाएं मिल सके जो उन नेपालियों को भारत में मिलती है, जो नेपाल में आकर यहां रह रहे हैं।

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, I have just now submitted and I want to submit again for the attention of my hon friend who is very knowledgeable on this issue that the Indo-Nepal relationship has a uniqueness about it. And this type of relationship is of a very high value to us. Not only today, not only yesterday, for centuries this relationship has been there and we want to sustain it. Of course, aberrations come from time to time and sometimes one has to respond to them. As far as the difficulties of Indians residing in Nepal are concerned, particularly teachers we have been talking to Nepal time and again. I have myself personally taken up with the two respective Governments and they have been promising to sort it out. But at the same time, so far as the data of people there are concerned, you know India is a vast country and if the borders are open, then the census equipment or census system has to be further sensitised. But at the moment we are looking into it but kindly let us not give one impression, we need not go from this House, that is, under any circumstances we do not want to, I repeat that under any circumstances we do not want to revise the quality of the relationships that exist between our countries. We value them.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: I think after the Prime Minister's clarifications, there is nothing left. Question No. 324.

Reply to M.Ps. Letters by Regional Passport Office Trichy

*324. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that replies to the letters sent by M.Ps. to the Regional Passport Office, Trichy, are not given;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the replies to the letters from M Ps. are given by the above Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Although no separate instructions have been issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the subject, all Passport Officers are expected to strictly follow the instructions laid down by the Government of India in the Manual of Office Procedure regarding

correspondance with the Members of Parliament.

Recently, the Department of Administrative Reform and Public Grievances have issued fresh guidelines, dated 22.7.1997, on prompt attention to communications from Members of Parliament. These have been circulated to all the Passport Offices for strict compliance.

The passport Officer, Trichy is receiving approximately 25 letters per month from the Members of Parliament. Most of these letters are recommendatory in nature. In all such cases expeditious and appropriate action is taken to issue the passports within the rules. However, when specific information is sought, or any complaint made, prompt replies are invariably issued.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Madam, I am sorry to say and I would like to inform this House that every Member who is sending letters to any Department including Prime Minister's Office receives replies within a week especially from the Prime Minister's Office. As far as this Department is concerned, Madam, particularly in the Trichy Passport Office, I wrote several letters to the concerned officers. They are not sending any replies. They are issuing bogus passports to certain people. This is my complaint. My first supplementary question is, has action been taken against the concerned officer for his not sending replies to our letters?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Madam, on receiving this question we have enquired into the state of affairs in Trichy Passport Office and we have come to know that the passport officer in Trichy is receiving approximately 25 letters per month from the Members of Parliament and these letters are mostly recommendatory in nature. We have come to know that when the recommendations have been complied with there has been a lapse on the part of the passport officer. He did not inform the Member of Parliament about the compliance. He should have. We have already sent instructions to all our passport officers that every letter from MP whether recommendatory or not, should be answered to.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: My second supplementary question Madam, is that as far as passport application is concerned, there is a column for attestation. We are from remote areas, we are from village areas. Now this attestation is done only by the Superintendent of Police as far as a district is concerned. As far as a metropolitan city is concerned, only a magistrate is assigned for attestation. I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether a Member of Parliament is eligible for signing the attestation form for passport. Is there any proposal for M Ps to attest the passport form?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): This issue had come up a couple of times here. The Government had no objection to this. But Members of Parliament did not want to take this responsibility because it moves a responsibility and I can well understand that a Member of Parliament being a public person is not in a position to say 'no' to anybody. Therefore, sometimes it creates problems for them. Therefore it was on this specific recommendation of Members of Parliament that this practice was not undertaken.

श्री संयद सिब्ते रजी : मैडम, मैं सिर्फ क्लैरिफाई करना चाहता हूं । जो मैं पूछना चाहता था उसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने कह दिया है । दूसरे पासपोर्ट आफिसेज में भी भी एम पी उनको जो लेटर लिखते हैं उनका रिप्लाई नहीं दिया जाता है । आपने ऐसा आदेश दे दिया है, इसलिये मैं समझता हूं कि फरदर कोई ऐसी शिकायत नहीं होगी ।

†[سید سبط رضی : سیڈ م۔ س
صرف شکریہ ادا کرنا ہوں جس میں پوچھنا
چاہتا تھا۔ اگلے بادو میں منتری جی سے
لے دیا ہے۔ دوسرے پاسپورٹ آفس سے
بھی ایم۔ پی انکوجریٹ لیٹر میں انکا
ریلوائی پاس دیا جاتا ہے۔ ایسے اسا
آدیشن دے دیا ہے۔ اسلئے میں سمجھتا
ہوں کہ مزید کوئی ایسی شکایت نہیں
ہوگی۔]†

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : धन्यवाद ।

श्री सैद सैयदा मोहसिन : महोदया, रेलवे की हालत पर यहां प्रश्न है लेकिन मुम्बई की हालत वहां से भी ज्यादा खराब है । एम.एल.ए. के लेटर के साथ किसी व्यक्ति ने काम कराने की कोशिश की लेकिन उसका लेटर फेंक दिया गया। मैंने ट्राई किया कि शायद मेरा लेटर चल जाये । जिस आदमी के हाथ मैंने वह लेटर भेजा उसको आफिस के दरवाजे के अन्दर ही नहीं आने दिया । डिसगस्ट में वह लेटर मैंने फाड़ कर फेंक दिया । कुछ दिनों बाद उस व्यक्ति ने स्वयं अपना काम कैसे करा लिया यह मुझे मालूम नहीं । लेकिन उसने वह काम करा लिया । मैंने प्रधानमंत्री जी को, जब वे फारेन मिनिस्टर थे, उस बारे में कहा था । उन्होंने कहा था कि आप मुझे पत्र भेजें । उनके पास से मुझे हमेशा जवाब आता रहा और पासपोर्ट बनते रहे । लेकिन मैं नहीं समझता कि हर बात के लिये इतने ऊंचे तक जाने की जरूरत है । रीजनल पासपोर्ट आफिसर को हिदायत होनी चाहिये कि ऐक्शन होना चाहिये ।

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा: हिदायत दी जा चुकी है ।

उपसभापति : कोई कमेटी भी बनाई है आपने ।

Trans/iteration in Arabic Script.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : एडवाइजरी कमेटी बनाई जा रही है । उसकी प्रक्रिया चालू है और जैसे ही हो जायेगा, आपको सूचित कर दिया जायेगा ।

उपसभापति : कोई कमेटी भी बनाई है, उसके बारे में नाम मांगे थे, हम लोगों ने भेज दिये हैं ।

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not finalised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They will finalise it. Now the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Early implementation of MPLADS Projects in Amravati district

*325. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for early clearance and implementation of MPLADS projects in the Melghat region of Amravati district of Maharashtra, where more than 4500 tribal children have died due to malnutrition and disease;

(b) if so, what special steps would be taken for this; and

(c) what more can be done under MPLADS in this area so that the benefit reaches the poor tribals in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) As per the guidelines on MPLAD Scheme, the District Collector, as far as possible, is required to give sanctions to works recommended by the Member of Parliament within 45 days from the date of recommendation, if these works are feasible and conform to the guidelines.